

City of Rockville Environment Commission

Sustainable Development and Energy Committee (SDEC)

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday March 23, 2010

Diamondback Terrapin Room, City Hall

7:00 pm

1. Welcome / Agenda Review/ Minutes Adoption

Seth Adams called the meeting to order at approximately 7:00 pm. In attendance: SDEC Chair Seth Adams, Christine Davidson-McCord, Phil Stiff, Lea Rosenbohm, and staff liaison Erica Shingara.

2. Environment Commission Report

Commissioners reported on the March 9th Environment Commission (EC) meeting.

- The EC discussed the recent Rockville Reports article on Chapter 5 FAQs for homeowners. Additional clarification on items related to improvements to existing homes would be helpful.
- There are volunteer opportunities for the April 10th stream cleanup day.
- Three Environmental Excellence Awards will be presented by the Mayor and Council on Earth Day (4/22). A celebration will be held in Town Center from 6 to 8 p.m.
- The Croydon Creek Nature Center will participate in Earth Hour on March 17th. Due to security and programming requirements, it is not feasible for other City facilities to participate.
- Science Day is scheduled for Sunday, April 25, 2010 at Montgomery College. The EC booth will include the new watershed model, rain barrel, and energy demonstration materials.
- There will be a vacancy on the Environment Commission in May. Interested individuals may contact the Commission or Environmental Management staff.

3. Building Code Update/Green Building Regulations

- The proposed amendments to Chapter 5, "Buildings and Building Regulations", including Article XIV, "Green Building Regulations," were introduced at the January 25, 2010 Mayor and Council meeting. The first public hearing was held on February 8th and a second public hearing was held on February 22nd. The public record closed on March 22, 2010. Discussion and Instruction is scheduled for April 5, 2010.
- A presentation on potential green buildings incentives is scheduled for April 5th. Staff will present the seven potential incentive options to the Mayor and Council and will not be making a formal recommendation. Staff is seeking guidance from the Mayor and Council on 1) if they want a local green building incentive program; and if so 2) which incentive options should receive additional analysis.
- The SDEC reviewed the public comments received from the Capital Building Industry Association and Christina Ginsberg, Twinbrook Citizens Association. Some members agreed with concerns that the tighter envelope and indoor air requirements have

not been thoroughly assessed and may result in problems with moisture formation and mold.

4. Education and Outreach

- Reviewed Science Day handouts (Commission/Committee overview sheet and DOE Energy Savers Booklet).
- The City and Chamber of Commerce are hosting a free Business Energy Incentives Workshop on April 8, 2010 at 8 a.m. at City Hall.
- There are various Earth Day and spring community events:
<http://www.rockvillemd.gov/environment/earth-day.html>

5. Montgomery County Home Energy Loan Program (HELP)

- A public hearing on HELP is scheduled for March 25th. Comments may be emailed to Eric Coffman at Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection.
- HELP provides low-interest loans for energy efficiency and renewable energy improvements. The loan is repaid through the property tax bill. Rockville residents are eligible.
- The Committee discussed how improvements will be verified and if the improvements/energy savings will be monitored and assessed in the future.

6. Member News / Announcements / Upcoming Events

- Phil Stiff is interested in energy efficiency opportunities for multifamily units and exploring: 1) if tenants have rights to have building owners improve the energy performance of apartment units; and 2) what programs are available to help building owners and renters improve energy efficiency.

7. Wrap-up and Adjourn

The next SDEC meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 27, 2010 at the Rockville City Hall. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:30 pm.